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United States Patent Application

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Title:

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A method of stabilizing and potentiating the action of anti-
angiogenic substances.

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Related Applications:

- 5 This application is a divisional of U. S. application serial no: 09/478,291
filed on 5th January 2000.

This invention relates to co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/392,953

- 10 Filed on September 9, 1999 and entitled “ Method of Treatment for Cell
Proliferative Disorders including Cancer”, which is incorporated herein by
reference.

Field of the Invention :

- 20 The present invention generally relates to the use of anti-angiogenic agents
in the cure of cell proliferative disorders including cancer and other
25 disorders caused by uncontrolled angiogenic activity in the body. More
particularly, the invention is directed to the efficacious use of anti-
angiogenic agents.

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Background of the Invention :

The term angiogenesis refers to the generation or formation of new blood vessels into a tissue or organ. Angiogenesis can occur both during some physiological processes and/or in some pathological conditions. For example, angiogenesis can be seen to occur during wound healing, fetal growth, corpus luteum, and endometrium, etc., (1). Endothelial cells, which cause to form the inner lining of the blood vessels, are constituted by a thin layer of epithelial cells and these cells are necessary for the process of angiogenesis. During the process of angiogenesis, irrespective of whether it is physiological or pathological, the endothelial cells release enzymes which can produce erosions of the basement membrane through which the endothelial cells cause protrusions. In response to the stimuli given by various agents, endothelial cells proliferate and migrate through the protrusions and form a sprout of the parent blood vessel. These endothelial cell sprouts can merge to form capillary loops leading to the formation of new blood vessel(s). If the blood vessels are in a tumor area, these new

5 blood vessels in turn will provide enough nutrients and energy sources
so that tumor cells can divide, proliferate and grow both in number and size.
Thus, the process of angiogenesis is both essential and critical to the growth
10 of cancer. The other pathological states in which angiogenesis plays a
critical role include: rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, scleroderma, myocardial
15 angiogenesis, corneal diseases, diabetic retinopathy associated with
neovascularization, macular degeneration, ovulation, menstruation etc. The
process of angiogenesis also appears to be critical for tumor metastasis.

20 Since angiogenesis is such a critical process in the promotion of cancer
and tumor metastasis, several researches have been trying to devise methods
25 or develop drugs which can selectively suppress angiogenesis with the hope
that this would eventually lead to the inhibition of tumor growth. There are
30 other situations where uncontrolled angiogenesis is undesirable. For
instance, formation of new blood vessels in an area like cornea during the
process of healing of the corneal ulcer, if it is in excess, can lead to corneal

5 scar formation.

In the case of rheumatoid arthritis, angiogenesis can lead to continued
 10 inflammation in the joints and also to osteoporosis. In such an instance, pre-
 vention of formation of new blood vessels will lead to reduction in
 inflammation and also prevention of fibrous ankylosis and bony ankylosis.

15 Thus, selective prevention and control of angiogenesis may be of benefit in
 the aforementioned conditions, as well as in several other conditions such as:

20 uterine fibroids, psoriasis, scleroderma, diabetic retinopathy, keloids,
 ovulation etc. Another area where prevention of angiogenesis will

be of benefit is in the inhibition of ovulation and menstruation and growth of
 25 placenta and this will lead to prevention of fertilization and growth of the

fetal tissue. This may, thus, form a new approach in the development of

30 fertility control measures.

Two naturally occurring molecules which have been identified to

35 adversely influence or inhibit angiogenesis are angiostatin[®] and endostatin[®]

(2). Both these molecules are proteins. Angiostatin[®] is a protein of molecular
 40 weight approximately 38 kD and has an amino acid sequence substantially

5 similar to that of a fragment of murine plasminogen beginning at amino acid
number 98 of an intact murine plasminogen molecule. The amino acid

10 sequence of angiotatin [®] varies only slightly between species. The amino

15 acid sequence of the human angiotatin is substantially similar to the murine
plasminogen fragment. But, it may be mentioned here that the active human

20 angiotatin sequence starts either at the amino acid number 97 or 99 of an
intact human plasminogen amino acid sequence. In addition, human
plasminogen has potent anti-angiogenic activity even in a mouse tumor

25 model. This explains why both murine and human plasminogens and

30 angiotatin/endostatin [®] [®] molecules show fairly similar anti-angiogenic

activities in a variety of animal tumor models (3).

U. S. patent 5, 792,845 issued on August 11, 1998 to O'Reilly et al
35 teaches that therapies directed at control of the angiogenic process could
lead to the abrogation or mitigation of certain diseases. O'Reilly et al
suggests that modulation of the formation of capillaries in angiogenic
40 processes (such as wound healing and reproduction) is useful since

5 undesired and uncontrolled angiogenesis can cause certain diseases to

10 progress. O'Reilly et al teaches that angiostatin[®] protein has the capability of inhibiting angiogenesis, eg., to inhibit the growth of bovine capillary endothelial cells in culture in the presence of fibroblast growth factor.

15 U.S. patent 5,932,545 issued on August 3, 1999 to Henkin et al teaches an anti-angiogenic drug in the form of a peptide or a salt thereof, to treat cancer, arthritis and retinopathy. The Henkin et al patent states however that angiogenesis inhibitors could cause systemic toxicity in humans.

25 Angiostatin[®] in the O'Reilly patent '845 is described and claimed as an Isolated nucleotide molecule with a specific sequence. It has been stated
30 however that the angiostatin[®] molecule as known at present is not suitable for clinical trials.

35 Endostatin[®], which is also similar to angiostatin[®], has been shown to cause a dramatic reduction of primary and metastatic tumors in experimental
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animals. Endostatin[®] is a 20 kDa C-terminal fragment of collagen XVIII.

Endostatin[®] could specifically inhibit endothelial cell proliferation and angiogenesis and thus, block tumor growth (2, 4).

It is important to note that angiostatin[®] is derived from plasminogen or plasmin. It has been shown that human prostate carcinoma cell lines express

enzymatic activity that can generate bioactive angiostatin from purified

human plasminogen or plasmin[®] This bioactive angiostatin has been shown to inhibit human endothelial cell proliferation, basic fibroblast growth

factor-induced migration, endothelial cell tube formation, and basic

fibroblast growth factor-induced corneal angiogenesis. In an extension of

this study, it was noted that a serine proteinase is necessary for angiostatin[®] generation (5).

Angiostatin[®], derived from plasminogen, selectively inhibits endothelial

cell proliferation. When angiostatin[®] is given systemically it shows potent

inhibitory action on the growth of tumor and renders metastatic and primary

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5 This recombinant angiostatin showed the same physical properties as that of
the natural angiostatin in terms of molecular size, binding to lysine,
10 reactivity with antibody to kringle 1-3 (3, 7). This recombinant angiostatin,
when given to experimental animals, showed anti-angiogenic and anti-tumor
15 activity (3). In addition, recombinant mouse angiostatin was produced using
the baculo-virus infected insect cells (8), which also (the secreted protein)
20 showed potent inhibitory action on the proliferation of bovine capillary
endothelial cells in vitro. The conversion of plasminogen to angiostatin by
25 PC-3 cells is now identified to be due to two components released, urokinase
(uPA) and free sulfhydryl donors (FSDs). This is supported by the fact that
30 even in a cell-free system, angiostatin can be generated from plasminogen
by plasminogen activators (u-PA, tissue-type plasminogen activator, tPA or
35 streptokinase) in combination with any one of free sulfhydryl donors such as
N-acetyl-L-cysteine, D-penicillamine, captopril, L-cysteine, or reduced
40 glutathione. This cell-free derived angiostatin also showed anti-angiogen

5 activity both in vitro and in vivo and suppressed the growth of Lewis lung carcinoma metastases (9).

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Angiostatin administration to mice with subcutaneous hemangioendo-
thelioma and associated disseminated intravascular coagulopathy revealed
that in addition to a significant reduction in the size of the tumor, increased
15 survival, decrease in thrombocytopenia and anemia was noted (10). This

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indicates that angiostatin may also be useful to treat disseminated
intravascular coagulopathy.

25 ®
One of the mechanisms by which angiostatin inhibits endothelial cell
proliferation includes its ability to affect by 4 to 5 fold the expression of
E-selectin in proliferating endothelial cells (11). On the other hand,

30 ®
angiostatin did not alter cell cycle progression significantly. Further,

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angiostatin also enhanced the adhesion activity in proliferating endothelial
cells.

40 Rivas et al (12) studied the possible relationship between human

macrophage metalloelastase (HME) expression, a member of the human matrix metalloproteinase family, which is believed to play an important role

in angiostatin generation, and angiostatin production. Their study showed that patients whose tumors did not express HME mRNA and so did not

produce angiostatin, had poorer survival than those whose tumors showed

high expression of HME mRNA and angiostatin generation. This study

suggests that HME gene expression is closely associated with angiostatin generation and prognosis in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

This relationship between HME and angiostatin is understandable since, metalloproteinase(s) can block angiogenesis by converting plasminogen to

angiostatin (12,13,14).

Another mechanism by which recombinant human and murine angiostatins can block angiogenesis is by inducing apoptosis (programmed cell death) of endothelial cells (15), similar to that seen with tumor necrosis

factor (TNF) and transforming factor-beta 1 (TGF-beta1), which are also
known to induce apoptosis in endothelial cells.

Yet another mechanism by which angiotatin can produce apoptosis and
inhibit angiogenesis is probably by binding to ATP synthase. Using human
umbilical endothelial vein endothelial cells, Moser et al (16) observed that
angiotatin bound in a concentration –dependent, saturable manner to the
alpha/beta sub-units of ATP synthase. This binding of angiotatin to the
alpha/beta sub-unit of ATP synthase was inhibited by as much as 90% in the
presence of anti-alpha-sub-unit ATP synthase antibody. This indicates that
angiotatin by binding to ATP synthase may actually shut-off ATP synthesis
in the endothelial cells and this would eventually lead to death of the cells
due to the non-availability of ATP, the main energy source for the survival
of the cells. In addition, it was also reported that angiotatin can inhibit
extra-cellular-matrix-enhanced, t-PA catalysed plasminogen activation. This
results in reduced invasive activity of endothelial cells (17). All these results

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Though both angiostatin and endostatin and other similar anti-angiogenic molecules provided an important therapeutic advance for cancer treatment, it should be emphasized here that the needed dosages of these proteins,

especially angiostatin used in the animal studies seem to be too high for clinical trials (20). Further, repeated injections and long-term treatment with

angiostatin are required to obtain its maximal anti-tumor effect. In view of

this, methods to supplement the anti-angiogenic action of angiostatin and

endostatin and other similar compounds are considered desirable. These

methods include: use of angiostatin along with other conventional anti-cancer drugs including radiation and novel methods of delivery of

angiostatin to tumor cells (21). Mauceri et al (22) studied the combined

effect of radiation with angiostatin and showed that this combination produced no increase in toxicity towards normal tissue. Both in vitro and in

vivo studies showed that these agents (radiation and angiostatin) in

combination target the tumor vasculature. In an extension of this study,
 Gorski et al (23) demonstrated that the efficacy of experimental radiation
 therapy is potentiated by brief concomitant exposure of the tumor
 vasculature to angiostatin[®].

Two novel methods of delivery of angiostatin[®] and similar compounds to
 the tumor cells that have been tried include:

- (a) Nguyen et al (24) generated recombinant adeno-associated virus
 (rAAV) vectors that carry genes encoding for angiostatin[®], endostatin[®],
 and an antisense mRNA species against vascular endothelial growth
 factor (VEGF). These rAAVs efficiently transduced three human tumor
 cell lines that have been tested. Further, testing of the conditioned
 media from cells transduced with this rAAV or with rAAV-expressing
 endostatin[®] or angiostatin[®] inhibited effectively endothelial cell
 proliferation in vitro. These results indicate that rAAVs can be used to
 block angiogenesis and cancer growth.

(b) In a different approach, Chen et al (25) examined whether liposomes complexed to plasmids encoding angiostatin[®] or endostatin[®] can inhibit angiogenesis and growth of tumors. These studies revealed that plasmids expressing angiostatin (PCI-angio)[®] or endostatin (PCI-endo)[®] can effectively reduce angiogenesis and the size of the tumors implanted in the mammary fat pad of male mice to a significant degree. In addition, liposomes complexed to PCI-endo when given intravenously reduced tumor growth in nude mice by nearly 40% when compared to controls (25).

Summary of the Invention :

All the above factors and observations attest to the fact that malignant tumors are angiogenesis-dependent diseases. But, it should be mentioned here that tumor-associated angiogenesis is a complex, multi-step process which can be controlled by both positive and negative factors. It appears, as though, angiogenesis is necessary, but not sufficient, as the single event for tumor growth (26). But, it is evident from several experimental

5 results that angiogenesis may be a common pathway for tumor growth
and progression. Though several anti-angiogenic agents are being tried to
arrest tumor growth, these are not without problems. Since the majority
10 of these agents are proteins/peptides, their long-term use may lead to the
development of antibodies which can neutralize their action. These anti-
angiogenic substances need to be given repeatedly and some of them are
15 unstable and are difficult to produce in large amounts.

20 In view of this, it is desirable and necessary to make efforts to stabilize
and potentiate the actions of known anti-angiogenic molecules.

25 The present invention teaches the efficacious use of anti-angiogenic
substances, which can inhibit endothelial cell proliferation and coupling
them to cis-unsaturated fatty acids, which also have anti-angiogenic and
30 cytotoxic actions on tumor cells, such that the actions of these substances
are potentiated by each other. Further, as angiogenesis is involved in other
35 disease processes such as inflammation, tumor metastasis, etc., it is
envisaged that the conjugate(s) of anti-angiogenic substances and c-UFAs
will be useful in these diseases also.

In this context, it is important to note that the inventor has found that polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) such as gamma-linolenic acid (GLA), dihomogamma-linolenic acid (DGLA), arachidonic acid (AA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) can selectively kill the tumor cells ((27-32) and under specific conditions and in conjugation with salts such as lithium and a lymphographic agent these fatty acids can actually behave as anti-angiogenic substances, i.e. they block all the blood supply to the tumor and also prevent generation of new blood vessels. Using these fatty acids in this particular combination, the inventor has successfully treated human hepatocellular carcinoma and giant cell tumor of bone with few or no side-effects.

Described hereinafter is a novel combination of a protein and a lipid and method(s) for its use. The protein referred to herein is a potent and specific inhibitor of endothelial proliferation and angiogenesis. The lipid may be one or more of the polyunsaturated fatty acids: LA (linoleic acid), GLA, DGLA, AA, ALA (alpha-linolenic acid), EPA, DHA and cis-parinaric acid. In this instance or method the polyunsaturated fatty acid need to be given only once or at the most twice within a period of 1 to 2 months. This invention teaches

that unlike angiostatin/endostatin, these fatty acids are not only cytotoxic to
the tumor cells but are also able to function as anti-angiogenic agents (33-
35). Further, polyunsaturated fatty acids when given in the formulated form,
are more potent than angiostatin/endostatin in their anti-angiogenic and anti-
cancer actions.

The invention in one aspect teaches a method of interrupting blood supply
to a tumor region causing necrosis or apoptosis. The invention also provides
a method of causing anti-angiogenic action in the tumor region with the
result that new blood vessels and collaterals are not formed to sustain the
tumor. The present invention in another aspect tackles the issue of drug
delivery to the target tissue and provides the most efficacious method of
administering an admixture of selected PUFAs with other elements such as
anti-angiogenic substances as will be described hereinafter.

The invention in yet another aspect teaches a method of interrupting
blood using a pre-determined admixture of at least a PUFA and an anti-
angiogenic agent causing necrosis with very desirable results. Both the
PUFAs and anti-angiogenic compounds being similar in function, the

invention also provides a method of causing anti-angiogenic action in the
tumor region with the result that new blood vessels and collaterals are not
formed to sustain the tumor in the tumor region treated according to the
invention. The present invention in another aspect tackles the issue of drug
delivery to the target tissue and provides the most efficacious method of
administering an admixture of selected PUFAs along with an anti-angio-
genic substance and other elements as will be described hereinafter.

Tumor cells are deficient in phospholipase A2, an enzyme necessary for
the release of various PUFAs from the cell membrane lipids as a result of
which the production of anti-neoplastic PGs such as PGD2 are not
elaborated. In addition, tumor cells secrete an excess of PGE2, an
immunosuppressive and mutagenic substance. Further, tumor cells are
deficient in PUFAs such as GLA, AA, EPA and DHA due to the low
activity of delta -6-desaturase. As a result of these metabolic changes,
tumor cells are able to effectively circumvent body's defense and survive.
The present invention provides a method of causing necrosis of tumor
cells despite their known survival pattern.

Anti-cancer actions of PUFAs:

Tumor cells are not only deficient in PUFAs but also have low rate(s) of lipid peroxidation, contain relatively large amounts of antioxidants such as vitamin E and superoxide dismutase (SOD). It is also believed that low rates of lipid peroxidation and consequent low amounts of lipid peroxides in the cells can contribute to an increase in the mitotic process which ultimately leads to an increase in cell proliferation. Thus, a deficiency of PUFAs, high amounts of antioxidants and the presence of low amounts of lipid peroxides in the tumor cells can contribute to the growth of tumor cells. This is supported by studies by the inventor wherein it was noted that PUFAs such as GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA can decrease tumor cell proliferation. In addition, it was also observed that when appropriate amounts of GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA were administered to tumor cells and normal cells, obtained from American Type Culture Collection, only tumor cells were killed without having any significant action on the survival of normal cells in vitro. In mixed culture experiments, in which both normal and tumor cells were grown together, GLA showed more selective tumoricidal action compared to AA, EPA

and DHA though, these latter fatty acids were also effective to some extent. This indicated that selective delivery of GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA to tumor cells may offer a new therapeutic approach in the treatment of cancer.

These in vitro results are supported by in vivo studies performed in animal tumor models. For example, it was noted that GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA when used either in the form of pure fatty acid alone or in the form of fatty acid rich oils could inhibit the growth of skin papilloma in mice, formation and growth of hepatoma in rats and ascitic tumor cells in the peritoneum of experimental animals. These results indicate that these fatty acids can inhibit the growth of a variety of tumors even in vivo. In further studies, it was noted that these fatty acids are able to enhance free radical generation and the lipid peroxidation process selectively in the tumor cells but not so much in the normal cells and thus, are able to bring about their cancer killing action.

This ability of PUFAs to augment free radical generation and lipid peroxidation in the tumor cells is analogous to the anti-tumor action of lymphokines such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF) and interferon (IFN),

5 both alpha and gamma varieties. These lymphokines (also referred to as cytokines) are capable of inducing the release of PUFAs from the cell membrane lipid pool and enhance free radical generation in the cells.

10 Similarly several anti-cancer drugs such as, but not limited to, doxorubicin and vincristine have the capacity to augment free radical generation and promote lipid peroxidation. In addition, PUFAs and their
15 products can modulate immune response, augment a respiratory burst of neutrophils and free radical generation by macrophages. This evidence is further testified by the observation that the incidence of cancer in Eskimos
20 is low as influenced by their traditional diet, which is rich in EPA and DHA. Inventor's studies have shown that PUFAs can be exploited as
25 possible anti-cancer agents either alone or in combination with lymphokines and traditional anti-cancer drugs.

30 In a series of investigations by the inventor, it was also observed that the cytotoxic action of anti-cancer drugs such as doxorubicin, vincristine and
35 cis-platinum can be augmented by various PUFAs such as GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA. In addition, these fatty acids could also enhance the cellular uptake of these anti-cancer drugs by the tumor cells and thus, are
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able to potentiate the anti-cancer actions of these drugs. In another similar
experiment by the inventor, it was also observed that GLA, DGLA, AA,
EPA and DHA were able to kill TNF resistant L-929 tumor cells in vitro.
Further, these TNF-resistant tumor cells were rendered TNF sensitive by
prior treatment of these L-929 cells by GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA and DHA.
These results indicate that PUFAs can not only kill the tumor cells by
themselves but are also capable of potentiating the cell killing effect of
various anti-cancer drugs, lymphokines such as TNF and IFN and also
render anti-cancer drug and TNF-resistant tumor cells sensitive to the
cytotoxic action of various anti-cancer drugs and lymphokines.

In another set of experiments, it was also noted that vincristine resistant
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tumor cells, KB- 8-5 (henceforth referred to as KB-8-5 cells) can be
made sensitive to the cytotoxic action of vincristine by GLA, DGLA,
AA, EPA and DHA. Further, when sub-optimal doses of vincristine and
fatty acids were added together to these vincristine resistant cells
produced optimal (i.e. significant) cell killing action. This shows that
vincristine and other anti-cancer compounds and PUFAs when added
together to cancer cells, they potentiate the cytotoxic action of each other.

5 Fatty acid analysis of both vincristine sensitive (KB-3-1) and resistant
(KB-8-5) cells revealed that the resistant cells have low amounts of GLA,
AA, EPA and DHA compared to the vincristine sensitive tumor cells
10 indicating that a deficiency of these fatty acids may be responsible for
their resistance to the cytotoxic actions of anti-cancer drugs. Since, both
vincristine sensitive and resistant tumor cells are easily (and to the same
15 extent) killed by various PUFAs in vitro, this demonstrates that even
drug-resistant tumor cells can be killed by these fatty acids.

20 In yet another set of experiments, the inventor also noted that L-929
cells which are resistant to the cytotoxic action of tumor necrosis factor
(referred to as TNF-resistant L-929 cells) can also be made sensitive to
25 the cytotoxic action of TNF by pre-treating these cells with various
PUFAs. In other words, L-929 cells which are resistant to the cytotoxic
30 action of TNF can be sensitized to the cytotoxic action of TNF by PUFAs.
This again indicates that PUFAs can not only kill the tumor cells but can
35 also serve as sensitizing agents rendering various tumor cells responsive
to the cytotoxic action of various anti-cancer drugs and lymphokines
(cytokines) such as tumor necrosis factor.
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It is to be noted in this context that PUFAs can bind to albumin and
other proteins and hence, if given intravenously may not be available to
be taken up by the tumor cells and consequently may not be able to bring
about their cell killing action on the tumor cells. In view of this, it is
desirable that PUFAs including GLA should be delivered to the patients in
such a manner that it is easily available to the tumor (tumor cells) and is
delivered selectively to the tumor cells. It is highly desirable that PUFAs
including GLA be given intra-tumorally as was experimentally done in the
case of human gliomas, or, intra-arterially by selective intra-arterial
infusion as was done experimentally in the case of hepatoma and giant
cell tumor of the bone. But, it is also possible that in some cases of cancer
such as Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma wherein the tumor cells
are extremely sensitive to the cytotoxic actions of PUFAs, even oral
administration may be sufficient as was observed in certain patients.
Since, PUFAs can potentiate the cell killing effect of anti-cancer drugs
and lymphokines, it is desirable to administer a combination of PUFAs,
anti-cancer drugs, lymphokines such as TNF and interferon or other anti-
angiogenic agents or a combination thereof with or without a carrier agent
such as an oily lymphographic agent as the situation indicates. Further

5 studies have also revealed that PUFAs such as GLA, DGLA and EPA can prevent or ameliorate the side effects of anti-cancer agents such as gamma- radiation and cis-platinum to the bone marrow cells of mice.

10 Thus, it appears that when PUFAs and conventional anti-cancer drugs/agents are given together they not only potentiate the cytotoxic action of each on the tumor cells and thus, produce a synergistic
15 and/or additive action in their ability to eliminate the tumor cells but it will also lead to elimination, reduction or amelioration of the side effects of conventional anti-cancer agents. Since PUFAs are able to potentiate
20 the cytotoxic action(s) of conventional anti-cancer agents and Impho- kines, it is also possible that this will lead to a significant reduction in the
25 doses of these latter agents without compromising the ultimate benefit namely, elimination of tumor cells or the tumor.

30 Some of the phenomena which reduce the efficacy of the cytotoxic action of PUFAs and conventional anti-cancer drugs/agents in vivo as
35 compared to in vitro results include the following:

- a. PUFAs when administered orally or intravenously can bind to
40 albumin and other proteins in living beings and may not be available to

5 be taken up by the tumor cells. But this ability of PUFAs to bind to
proteins is made use of in the present invention and is detailed below.

10 b. The cytotoxic action of PUFAs is produced by the augmentation of
free radical generation and lipid peroxidation in only tumor cells (but
not in normal cells). The intensity of the cytotoxic action is
15 disadvantageously reduced in actual clinical efforts because of
inefficient transportation of the fatty acids to the target areas.

20 c. Continued blood supply to tissue with proliferative cell disorders is not
conducive to bringing about a significant amount of necrosis
especially if the malignant cells multiply faster than they are being
25 destroyed.

30 d. It was found from a study reported in a June, 1994 "Cancer letters"
publication authored by N. Madhavi and U.N. Das that antioxidants
like vitamin E and the superoxide anion quencher, superoxide
35 dismutase (SOD) could completely inhibit free radical generation
and lipid peroxidation generated by PUFAs like GLA, EPA and
DHA. It appears that selective drug delivery to the target tissue will
40 be conducive to the efficacy of the beneficial action of the PUFAs.

5 The present invention in one aspect resides in a method of inhibiting
blood supply to a tumor by using two types of substances: one a lipid
and the other a protein or a peptide both of which have very potent
anti-angiogenic action. In addition, the invention also comprises of the
10 steps of : locating an artery which carries major blood supply to the
tumor, said artery being one that is proximate to the tumor, and intra-
arterially injecting into the located artery a predetermined quantity of a
15 polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) in the form of a solution of at least
one PUFA chosen from LA, GLA, DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA, DHA
20 and cis-parinaric acid in combination with a protein/peptide with
anti-angiogenic substance(s).

25 The invention in another aspect resides in a method for treating
tumors and for facilitating visualization of remission of the tumor
30 in response to treatment, comprising the steps of
(a) locating an artery which carries a major portion of blood supply to
the tumor and is adjacent to the tumor;
35 (b) obtaining an initial radiographic image of the tumor region;
(c) injecting into the artery a mixture of (i) an oily lymphographic
40 agent,

- 5 (ii) a lithium salt solution of at least one PUFA chosen from LA, GLA,
DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA, DHA; and cis-parinaric acid
- 10 (iii) an anti-angiogenic protein/substance which is co-valently linked to
the fatty acid or form a mixture (fatty acid + anti-angiogenic
protein or peptide).
- 15 (d) obtaining second and subsequent radiographic images of the tumor
regions after predetermined lapses of time; and comparing the
initial radiographic images with the second and subsequent
20 radiographic images to assess the extent of remission of the tumor.

25 The invention in another aspect resides in a method of causing
necrosis in a cancerous tumor by inhibiting blood supply to the tumor,
and also by direct cytotoxicity to the tumor cells, comprising the steps
of :

- 30 (a) locating an artery proximate to the tumor which carries major blood
supply to the tumor;
- 35 (b) injecting into the located artery a mixture of (i) an anti-angiogenic
protein/peptide; (ii) a lithium salt solution of at least one
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essential fatty acid chosen from LA, GLA, DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA,
DHA and cis-parinaric acid

(c) waiting for a predetermined time period and assessing a degree of
necrosis in the tumor by examining by a radiographic study or by
other means; and

(d) repeating step (b) if necessary to increase the necrosis.

In yet another aspect, the invention resides in a method of treating a
glioma and visualizing remission of the glioma as it responds to treatment,
comprising :

(a) obtaining an initial radiographic image of a region containing the
glioma;

(b) injecting into the glioma region an admixture of (i) a sodium salt or
any other suitable salt solution of at least one polyunsaturated fatty
acid chosen from LA, GLA, DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA, DHA and cis-
parinaric acid or a combination thereof along with an anti-
angiogenic protein/peptide;

5 (c) obtaining second and subsequent radiographic images of the glioma
region after predetermined lapses of time; and comparing the initial
radiographic pictures which shows the glioma , with second and
10 subsequent radiographic images of the glioma region to visualize
and assess the extent of remission of the glioma.

15 In yet another aspect, the invention resides in a method of treating
mammalian cell proliferative disorders using an emulsion of a lithium
salt of a PUFA or combinations of PUFAs and a predetermined anti-
20 angiogenic protein/peptide administered parenterally including a
subcutaneous route. Preferably, the intra-arterial administration of the
25 admixture containing PUFA(s) is done through a catheter. Also, the artery
carrying major blood supply to the tumor is to be understood herein as
30 synonymous to the artery which will supply the tumor feeding vessels.
Owing to a phenomenon which is consequent to inhibiting blood supply,
the present invention makes it not conducive to the formation of new
35 blood vessels i.e. angiogenesis. The anti-angiogenic protein in different
implementations of this invention may be endostatin or angiostatin or any
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any other anti-angiogenic substance.

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Brief description of the illustrations

10 A more detailed understanding of the invention may be had from the
following description of preferred embodiments, given by way of
example, and to be understood in conjunction with the accompanying
15 illustrations/drawings wherein:

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Figure 1 illustrates the structural metabolism of essential fatty acids.

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Detailed description

25 Figure 1 shows a typical known metabolism pattern of essential fatty
acids as known in prior art. Essential fatty acids are precursors of
eicosanoids and are important structural components of cell membranes.
30 They also provide the substrates for the generation of lipid peroxidation
products which have an inhibitory action on cell proliferation. Tumor cells
35 are known to have low delta-6-desaturase activity, an enzyme necessary
for the desaturation of dietary linoleic acid (LA, 18:2, n-6) and alpha-
linolenic acid (ALA, 18:3, n-3) to their respective products. In an earlier
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study, the inventor has shown that hepatocarcinogens, diethylnitrosamine
(DEN) and 2-acetylaminofluorine (2-AAF), can suppress the activity of
delta-6-desaturase and delta-5-desaturase resulting in low levels of
gamma-linolenic acid (GLA, 18:3, n-6) and arachidonic acid (AA, 20:4,
n-6) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA, 20:5, n-3) and docosahexaenoic
acid (DHA, 22:6, n-3) in the tumor cells. These results led the inventor and
others to study the effect of various fatty acids on the survival of tumor
cells in vitro. Addition of EFAs (LA and ALA) and other PUFAs such as
GLA, DGLA, AA, EPA, DHA and cis-parinaric acid to a variety of tumor
cells in vitro showed that only tumor cells are killed by these fatty acids
without harming the normal cells. This selective tumoricidal action of
fatty acids seems to be mediated by free radicals and lipid peroxides.
Similar to these fatty acids, radiation, some anti-cancer drugs and
cytokines (lymphokines) also seem to have the ability to generate free
radicals in tumor cells and thus, bring about their tumoricidal actions.

Since drug resistance is a major obstacle in the clinical treatment of
cancer and as PUFAs have selective tumoricidal action, the inventor
studied the effects of PUFAs on drug-resistant tumor cells and their

modulating influence on the actions of anti-cancer drugs.

5 In the above context, in addition to producing reversal of tumor cell
drug resistance by the administration of polyunsaturated fatty acids, it is
10 seen from the invention that the manner of targeting the cancerous tissue
is very critical to the efficacy and the speed with which necrosis can be
brought about. More particularly, it is realized through this invention that
15 by delivering a chosen admixture of salts of predetermined polyunsatu-
rated fatty acids and predetermined anti-angiogenic substance(s) to the
tumor site intra-arterially, intra-venously, subcutaneously, intra-peri-
20 toneally or by direct injection into the tumor bed, a very beneficial and
hitherto unknown effect in terms of inhibiting blood supply to the tumor
25 site and inducing tumor cell lysis is achieved simultaneously.

30 In clinical studies conducted by the inventor with PUFAs, the inhibition
of blood supply was pronounced enough to cause cutting off blood
supply to the tumor site with very little time lag. In other instances, an
35 unmistakable strangling of blood supply to the tumor region was observed,
but was relatively gradual.

40 One aspect of the invention consists in the preparation of a combination/

composition of treatment of cancer in which one or more of LA, GLA,
 5 DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA, DHA and cis-parinaric acid are administered
 with conventional anti-cancer agents/drugs including anti-angiogenic
 10 protein/peptide with or without an oily lymphographic agent or any
 other suitable agent for the delivery of these compounds; optionally,
 radiation may be included. The PUFAs may be provided in a daily dose
 15 of 0.5 mg to 50 gm together with appropriate doses of conventional anti-
 cancer drugs such as vincristine, doxorubicin, L-asparaginase, cis-
 20 platinum, busulfan, etc., in a daily/weekly/monthly dose of 1 mg to
 50 gm depending on the requirement and the stage of the disease and
 as may be determined from time to time with or without the addition of
 25 [®] [®]
 anti-angiogenic protein/peptide such as angiostatin/endostatin in a dose of
 1 mg to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day. The word anti-angiogenic
 30 substance is understood as one or more of the following substances:
[®] [®]
 35 angiostatin, endostatin, platelet factor-4, TNP-470, thalidomide,
 interleukin-12, metalloprotease inhibitors (MMP), anti-adhesion
 molecules (in their desired dose). The combination of PUFAs,

5 conventional anti-cancer drugs, anti-angiogenic substances and the
oily lymphographic agent may be administered by any one or different
routes at the same time or at different times and intervals by selecting an
10 appropriate route for each administration or in combination, eg. oral,
parenteral including intra-arterial infusion, intravenous, subcutaneous,
15 intra-peritoneal, topical, anal, vaginal routes as suppositories, or local
injection directly into the tumor bed under the guidance of appropriate
equipment such as but not limited to radiological guidance (X-rays),
20 CT guidance or MRI guidance or by stereostaxic guidance. The daily
dose(s) of these compounds may not exclude the administration of long
25 acting preparations or depot preparation once or more times in a day,
week, month or at some other appropriate time interval as determined
from time to time depending on the necessity. The fatty acids (PUFAs)
30 may be present in any physiologically acceptable form including but not
limited to glycerides, esters, free acids, amides, phospholipids or salts.
35 The conventional anti-cancer drugs may be administered by themselves
or in conjugation with PUFAs (either alone or in combination such as
GLA alone or GLA + AA, LA, DGLA, ALA, EPA or DHA). Similarly
40

5 the anti-angiogenic substance(s) may be given by themselves or in
conjugation with PUFAs. For intra-arterial infusion or intravenous/
subcutaneous injection/infusion or administration of LA, GLA, DGLA,
10 AA, ALA, EPA, DHA and/or cis-parinaric acid these may be given by
themselves or in combination or dissolved or conjugated in/with anti-
15 angiogenic substances and in any other suitable solution that can be given
parenterally but not limited to them. All these PUFAs, conventional anti-
cancer drugs, anti-angiogenic substances and lymphographic agent may
20 each be given alone or in combination thereof or all together or separately
at the same time or at different time intervals on the same day/week
25 /month either by same route or different routes as the situation demands.

In order to observe or ascertain and record progress made in patients
30 after administration of admixture according to this invention, images of
the affected area eg., tumor region before and after treatment can be
obtained by various known modalities such as computerized axial
35 tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), etc.

Examples:

1. Hard (wherein the PUFAs have been microencapsulated) or soft gelatin capsules (wherein the fatty acids are present in an oily form) made by accepted normal or forms or methods and are administered to persons suffering from cancer in conjunction with conventional anti-cancer drugs and/or anti-angiogenic substances in the doses as stated supra.
2. Hard or soft gelatin capsules made by conventional methods, in which the fatty acids, the anti-cancer drugs and anti-angiogenic substances are incorporated together in the same capsule and are administered to persons suffering from cancer.
3. As intra-tumoral preparation in appropriate doses (from 0.5 mg to 50 mg per day) of pure LA, GLA, DGLA, AA, ALA, EPA and DHA either individually or in combination thereof especially with anti-angiogenic substances for the treatment of human brain gliomas or any other accessible tumor (eg. urinary bladder cancer, carcinoma of the esophagus, carcinoma of the lung, breast cancer etc.) by any

route by using flexible fiber optic scopes such as bronchoscope,
 urethroscope, hysteroscope, etc. In the case of tumors of the head
 and neck the fatty acids are administered either by direct intra-
 tumoral route or by selective catheterization of the tumor feeding
 vessel(s) either by femoral, brachial or carotid routes or by
 subcutaneous route or intravenous route. The PUFAs and anti-
 angiogenic substances can be given to these patients daily, weekly
 or monthly or as and when necessary depending on the requirement
 and response of the patient to the treatment.

4. Administered as selective intra-arterial infusion or injection into the
 tumor feeding vessel by femoral, brachial or carotid routes or any
 other suitable route or in a combination thereof the PUFAs either alone
 or in combination with anti-cancer drugs/anti-angiogenic substances
 with or without the oily lymphographic agent or any other suitable
 agent all in a mixture or in conjugated form(s) (like GLA + any
 conventional anti-cancer drug or drugs + anti-angiogenic substance ,
 LA/GLA/DGLA/AA/ALA/EPA/DHA/cis-parinaric acid all
 individually or in combination thereof + conventional anti-cancer

5 drug(s) + anti-angiogenic substance(s) + lymphographic agent.,
LA/GLA/DGLA/AA/ALA/EPA/DHA/cis-parinaric acid in
10 combination with or conjugated to anti-angiogenic substance(s) or
emulsified with or mixed with oily lymphographic agent.,
LA/GLA/DGLA/AA/ALA/EPA/DHA/cis-parinaric acid alone or
15 in combination thereof in oily lymphographic agent as a mixture
or emulsion or as a conjugate(s) and a variety of other combinations
thereof). This preparation may be administered daily, weekly or
20 monthly or at some other appropriate time interval.

- 25 5. Topical preparation of PUFAs either alone or in combination thereof
with conventional anti-cancer drugs or anti-angiogenic substance(s)
in a suitable delivery vehicle in which daily doses (ranging from 0.5 μ g
30 to 100 mg) are applied to primary skin cancers including Kaposi's
sarcoma locally and/or conventional anti-cancer drugs are given either
orally or parenterally.

35
By the different embodiments of the invention method described supra,
it becomes known that :
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5 (i) when PUFAs or cis-EFAs (essential fatty acids described here
are also called as cis-fatty acids as by virtue of their structure are
referred to as cis-EFAs as they are in cis-configuration) are
10 administered to patients intra-arterially or even otherwise as a
combination with anti-angiogenic substance(s), there are less
chances of albumin and other proteins binding to the fatty acids.
15 Consequently, PUFAs thus administered using the invention are
better available to be taken up by the tumor cells.

20 (ii) Owing to the efficient transportation of PUFAs to the tumor site as
described hereinbefore, there is increased intensity of the cytotoxic
25 action of PUFAs and the administered anti-cancer agents (drugs or
anti-angiogenic substance(s) or a combination thereof). Thus, using
the invention, there is relatively better augmentation of free radical
30 generation and lipid peroxidation in the tumor cells, thereby
facilitating a greater degree of necrosis.

5 (iii) Inhibiting blood supply to the tumor region by the method of the
invention prevents cell proliferation in the tumor region, thus
enabling healthy tissue to grow back into place.

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15 (iv) The inhibition otherwise caused by vitamin E and superoxide
dismutase to free radical generation and lipid peroxidation
produced by PUFAs, is reduced in the method of this invention
because of the manner of transportation of PUFAs to the tumor
20 site in combination with anti-angiogenic substance(s) intra-
arterially through a proximate artery or intravenously or
subcutaneously.

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30 It is also within the purview of this invention, as stated supra to admini-
ster an admixture of PUFAs, anti-cancer drugs, and selected anti-angiogenic
substance(s) at the same time, administering predetermined doses of PUFAs
orally. All such variations are envisaged to be within the ambit of this
35 invention.

Application to mammals: Even though the examples described supra relate to humans, it is envisaged that the method of inhibiting blood supply and using admixture of this invention including an anti-angiogenic substance are equally applicable to other mammals.

Equivalents

While this invention has been particularly shown and described with references to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Also sodium and potassium salts are considered equivalents of each other. Imaging techniques referred to herein are intended to include CAT, MRI, X-rays and other possible imaging methods. Those skilled in the art will recognize or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the invention described specifically herein. Such equivalents are intended to be encompassed in the scope of the appended claims.

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